

§ 602.30

34 CFR Ch. VI (7–1–00 Edition)

(3) A pending or final action brought by a recognized accrediting agency to suspend, revoke, withdraw, or terminate the institution's accreditation or preaccreditation; or

(4) Probation or an equivalent status imposed by a recognized agency.

(c) The agency may grant accreditation or preaccreditation to an institution or program described in paragraph (b) of this section only if it provides to the Secretary, within 30 days of its action, a thorough and reasonable explanation, consistent with its standards, why the action of the other body does not preclude the agency's grant of accreditation or preaccreditation.

(d) If the agency learns that an institution it accredits or preaccredits, or an institution that offers a program it accredits or preaccredits, is the subject of an adverse action by another recognized accrediting agency or has been placed on probation or an equivalent status by another recognized agency, the agency must promptly review its accreditation or preaccreditation of the institution or program to determine if it should also take adverse action or place the institution or program on probation or show cause.

(e) The agency must, upon request, share with other appropriate recognized accrediting agencies and recognized State approval agencies information about the accreditation or preaccreditation status of an institution or program and any adverse actions it has taken against an accredited or preaccredited institution or program.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1845–0003)

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

Subpart C—The Recognition Process

APPLICATION AND REVIEW BY DEPARTMENT STAFF

§ 602.30 How does an agency apply for recognition?

(a) An accrediting agency seeking initial or continued recognition must submit a written application to the Secretary. The application must consist of—

(1) A statement of the agency's requested scope of recognition;

(2) Evidence that the agency complies with the criteria for recognition listed in subpart B of this part; and

(3) Supporting documentation.

(b) By submitting an application for recognition, the agency authorizes Department staff to observe its site visits and decision meetings and to gain access to agency records, personnel, and facilities on an announced or unannounced basis.

(c) The Secretary does not make available to the public any confidential agency materials a Department employee reviews during the evaluation of either the agency's application for recognition or the agency's compliance with the criteria for recognition.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1845–0003)

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

§ 602.31 How does Department staff review an agency's application?

(a) Upon receipt of an agency's application for either initial or continued recognition, Department staff—

(1) Establishes a schedule for the review of the agency by Department staff, the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, and the Secretary;

(2) Publishes a notice of the agency's application in the FEDERAL REGISTER, inviting the public to comment on the agency's compliance with the criteria for recognition and establishing a deadline for receipt of public comment; and

(3) Provides State licensing or authorizing agencies, all currently recognized accrediting agencies, and other appropriate organizations with copies of the FEDERAL REGISTER notice.

(b) Department staff analyzes the agency's application to determine whether the agency satisfies the criteria for recognition, taking into account all available relevant information concerning the compliance of the agency with those criteria and any deficiencies in the agency's performance with respect to the criteria. The analysis includes—

(1) Site visits, on an announced or unannounced basis, to the agency and, at the Secretary's discretion, to some